

Rainfrogs

This wildlife sound was recorded by naturalist Andrew Skeoch in central Victoria. It's the sound of several frogs: Eastern Pobblebunks, also known as Banjo Frogs (you'll hear why), the 'taps' of Striped Marsh Frogs, the ".eep..eep..eep..eep" of Brown Tree Frogs and some cricks and wheeps from species of crinia.

It's also partly inspired by the way water sounds falling onto the massive leaves and trunks in a rainforest. The world has an amazing 7,500 frog species, and one-third are in danger of extinction, mostly due to loss of habitat and heating climate.

When your body is your instrument
you can make a lot of noise
Trees, rainfrogs or raindrops –
the end result's the same

Suck it in, pop it out, hoot it, croak it,
Tap it, peep it or twang it like a banjo
If you're a frog you can pobblebonk.

Rain falls, mallets on a marimba
Xylophone twigs and leaf drum snares
and the bass drum belly of a ceibo tree.

Keep it up, keep it up, all the water in the world
dripping dropping on a drumskin frogskin
Soak it up, dive under.

But what happens when the rain dries up?
What happens when the trees are chopped?
What happens in the silence?

(silence)

We need the rain, we need the trees
We need the frogs, we need the songs
Soak it up, call it out.